

Message Text

SECRET

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16

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AID-20 CCO-00 EUR-25 DRC-01

SSC-01 /173 W

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R 090600Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4103

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USDEL JEC PARIS

COMUSSAG

CINCPAC

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 13682

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, CB

SUBJ: THE NEW GRUNK CABINET

REF: (A) FBIS BANGKOK DO71330 (B) FBIS BANGKOK DO71335

1. SUMMARY. OUR READING OF THE NEW GRUNK CABINET IS THAT SIHANOUK HAS LOST FURTHER GROUND TO THE KC. END SUMMARY.

2. GRUNK HAS NOW MOVED, SOMEWHAT TARDILY (IN VIEW OF THE DEC 6 UN ACTION ON KHMER REPRESENTATION) AND NOT ALTOGETHER CONVINCINGLY TO MAKE GOOD ON THE SIHANOUK ANNOUNCEMENT OF NOV 9 THAT ALL MINISTERIAL TITLES IN GRUNK HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED TO PERSONS INSIDE CAMBODIA. IN ANNOUNCING THE NEW HOLDERS OF THE PORTFOLIOS (REF A) AND NOTIFYING ACTING PRIME MINISTER OF HIS

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APPROVAL (REF B), SIHANOUK INDICATED THAT THE

EXTERNAL PORTION OF GRUNK IS NOW ABOLISHED AND THAT GRUNK CAN NO LONGER BE CALLED A GOVERNMENT IN EXILE BECAUSE IT IS "ENTIRELY" BASED ON "NATIONAL SOIL" INSIDE CAMBODIA. THIS SEEMS TO SIGNAL THAT NO OTHER MAJOR CHANGES WILL BE FORTHCOMING.

3. THE NEW GRUNK CABINET BY OUR COUNT NUMBERS 11 AND IS AS FOLLOWS: PRIME MINISTER PENN NOUTH (ON SICK LEAVE IN CANTON AND TEMPORARILY REPLACED BY KHIEU SAMPHAN), VICE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE KHIEU SAMPHAN, FOREIGN MINISTER SARIN CHHAK (WHO DESPITE SIHANOUK'S STATEMENT QUOTED PREVIOUS PARAGRAPH APPARENTLY REMAINS IN PEKING BY PRIOR AGREEMENT), MINISTER ATTACHED TO THE PRESIDENCY (WE ASSUME THIS TITLE WILL CHANGE) IENG SARY, MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND PROPAGANDA HU NIM, MINISTER OF INTERIOR, COMMUNAL REFORM AND COOPERATIVES HOU YUON, MINISTER OF JUSTICE NORODOM PHURISSARA, MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH THIOUNN THOEUN, MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS, TELE-COMMUNICATIONS AND CONSTRUCTION TOCH PHOEUN, MINISTER OF RELIGIOUS AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS CHOU CHET, AND MINISTER OF PUBLIC EDUCATION AND YOUTH MADAME IENG SARY. THE LAST FOUR ARE NEW ADDITIONS AND NORODOM PHURISSARRA GAINED A PORTFOLIO.

4. OF THE NINE MINISTERS NOW IN COUNTRY, ALL ARE KNOWN TO HAVE LITTLE LOVE FOR SIHANOUK AND ALL BUT ONE (NORODOM PHURISARRA) ARE BELIEVED TO BE COMMUNISTS. WE NOTE ALSO THAT ALL OF THE PORTFOLIOS TRANSFERRED TO IN-COUNTRY LEADERS WERE TAKEN FROM PERSONS WE BELIEVE TO BE SIHANOUKISTS: CHAU SENG LOST JUSTICE, HUOT SAMBATH LOST PUBLIC WORKS, CHAN YOURAN LOST EDUCATION, AND NGO HOU LOST PUBLIC HEALTH AND RELIGIOUS AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS.

5. OF THE FIVE PORTFOLIOS OR MINISTERIAL POSITIONS NOT CARRIED OVER TO THE NEW CABINET, ONE BELONGED TO A SIHANOUKIST (MINISTER OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND ARMAMENT DUONG SAM O1) AND FOUR TO COMMUNISTS OR CRYTO-COMMUNISTS (MINISTER CHARGED WITH SPECIAL MISSIONS
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CHAU SENG, MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE THIOUNN MUMM, MINISTER DELEGATE TO THE PRIME MINISTER KEAT CHHON, AND MINISTER FOR COORDINATION OF THE STRUGGLE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION THIOUNN PRASITH). AT LEAST ONE OF THESE LATTER, THIOUNN PRASITH CONTINUED TO USE HIS MINISTERIAL TITLE AS LATE AS DECEMBER 6 AND THEIR EXACT STATUS IS NOT ALTOGETHER CLEAR.

6. FROM THE FOREGOING WE DRAW THE CLEAR CONCLUSION
THAT SIHANOUK HAS LOST FURTHER GROUND TO THE KC.
NONE OF HIS KEY SUPPORTERS HAVE AS YET RETURNED TO
CAMBODIA AND THE ONLY ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE CABINET IN
ANY WAY RESPONSIBLE TO HIM IS THE FOREIGN MINISTER SARIN
CHHAK.
ENDERS

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NNN

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